

Remarks

Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended. No claims have been canceled.

Therefore, claims 1-18 are presented for examination.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogaki, U.S. Patent No. 6,771,383 (“Ogaki”) in view of Klein, U.S. Publication No. 2005/0060059 (“Klein”). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Ogaki in view of Klein.

Ogaki discloses a mechanism adapted to create multi-page data consisting of image data of a plurality of pages that constitute one document, and to manage the multi-page data in the same stage as single-page data that consists of image data of each page belonging to the document. As a result, an image processing system is realized which can make use of both a single-page file suitable for management or updating of image data performed in units of one page, and a multi-page file suitable for processing of image data performed in units of one document. See Ogaki at Abstract.

Klein discloses discarding a first separator card after a first batch of documents are processed, or reusing the first separator card for a different batch of documents that will be retrieved in the future from the same machine from which the first batch of documents was retrieved. See Klein at paragraph [0313].

Claim 1 of the present application recites determining if said input separator page contains first print job information indicating use of the input separator page as a first print job page and obscuring said first print job information by blackening out the first print job information if said first print job information is determined to be present on said input separator page. Applicant submits that both Ogaki and Klein discloses or suggests a process of determining if an input separator page contains first print job information

indicating use of the input separator page as a first print job page and obscuring the first print job information if the first print job information is determined to be present on said input separator page. The Examiner asserts that since Klein discloses reusing a separator card, such steps are implied. See Final Office Action at page 3, lines 5-12.

Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that §103(a) requires a finding that the prior art includes *each claimed element*. Thus, it is improper hindsight to allege implied steps in references when such steps are not suggested in the relied upon references. Particularly, it would not be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art as to how a general disclosure of a separator being reused implies a process of *determining if an input separator page contains first print job information indicating use of the input separator page as a first print job page, or obscuring the first print job information by blackening out the first print job information if the first print job information is determined to be present on the input separator page, as recited in claim 1*.

Moreover, applicant submits that the separator card disclosed in Klein is not equivalent to the claimed input separator page. For instance, Klein discloses a separator card that includes a conductive material and a rectangular bar. The material is made of an electrically conductive, non-magnetic material, such as aluminum-based polyester film, adhesive-backed copper foil, and conductive ink, has a generally square shape, and it is located in a central location. In some embodiments, the conductive material is a foil. For example, the foil known by the trade designation KoldFoil Metallic, commercially available from Amagic Holographics, Inc., may be used as the material. In this specific embodiment, the foil has a thickness of approximately 16 microns (0.00063") and can

range in area and shape depending on the sensor and user requirements. See Klein at paragraph [00289].

Applicant submits that it would not be inherent to obscuring information an *aluminum-based polyester film, adhesive-backed copper foil* card by blackening out print job information from a prior print job. Because both Ogaki and Klein each fail to disclose or suggest a process of determining if said input separator page contains first print job information indicating use of the input separator page as a first print job page and obscuring said first print job information by blackening out the first print job information if said first print job information is determined to be present on said input separator page, any combination of Ogaki and Klein would also fail to disclose or suggest such a process. As a result, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Ogaki in view of Klein.

Independent claims 7 and 13 include limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus, claims 7 and 13, and their respective dependent claims are also patentable over Ogaki in view of Klein for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to Deposit Account No. 50-3669.

Respectfully submitted,
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